

IN TRIBUTE TO THE LATE MAYOR
RITA AFLLEJE TAINATONGO

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and achievements of Mayor Rita Afilleje Tainatongo who passed away on August 13, 2006. Mayor Tainatongo was a caring and devoted public servant who was dedicated to her family and loved by her village of Malesso and all the people of Guam.

Rita was born on January 7, 1949 to Antonio Taitano Afilleje and Rosa Tedpahago-Champaco in the village of Malesso. She was raised in a loving and caring home that included her parents, her brother John, and two sisters, Rosita and Regina. Rita credits Felipe Duenas and Josefina Acfalle Candaso as important role models during her formative teen years who helped her develop the character and poise that she was known for as a young adult.

Rita attended Mount Carmel School, in Agat, and graduated from the Academy of Our Lady of Guam in 1967. Her public service career began in 1985 when she was appointed as a Municipal Clerk in the Malesso's Mayor's Office. She later became the Administrative Assistant to the Mayor. Her reputation as a "can-do" person and her experience led to her own successful run for the Mayor's Office in 2000. She was reelected to a second term in 2004.

During her two terms she re-invigorated the sister village relationship between the Coast Guard and Malesso, improved services for senior citizens and successfully organized the Malesso Fiestan Tasi annual celebrations.

A lifelong Democrat, Rita was a village leader for the party in the gubernatorial campaigns of 1982, 1986 and 1990. Her politics were motivated by a deep sense of purpose and a vision of what government can do to make lives better.

Throughout her public life, Rita gave back to the community through her support of the American Cancer Society and American Red Cross and other civic organizations.

The island of Guam has lost a leader, a humanitarian, and a friend. Our thoughts and prayers are with Rita's husband, Ramon Baza Tainatongo, her children, and grandchildren. We are saddened and at the same time we are inspired by how much one person can accomplish for her community. She has touched many lives and made the island a better place to live for many people, most especially her beloved people of Malesso.

HONORING SOUTHLAKE, TEXAS
UPON 50 YEARS OF INCORPORATION

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the city of Southlake, Texas for its 50th Anniversary of Incorporation.

In 1956, Southlake was born on the North Texas Prairie as 1.62 square miles of land with less than 1000 inhabitants and now boasts 22 square miles with a population of more than 25,000 Texans.

During the past 50 years, businesses and families alike have migrated to Southlake to plant roots in the stable and warm community. With the growth of the city's size in land and residents, Southlake has worked hard and succeeded at maintaining a comfortable and safe hometown atmosphere.

The American family is thriving in Southlake, Texas with just over 60 percent of families having kids under the age of 18. Whether a faculty member in the accomplished local school system, or a participant in the storied high school athletic programs, these families take great pride in preparing their children for the future. Within these families are hard working employees at locally owned businesses or large corporations who strive for the betterment of the community in which they live.

I commend Southlake's city officials of past and present for their dedication during challenging periods of growth and laud their accomplishments of making Southlake a premier North Texas community for families and businesses.

I give my congratulations to the city officials and private residents of Southlake on their Golden Anniversary of Incorporation. I honor Southlake, Texas upon this milestone and look forward to the future as the city continues to be a shining example in North Texas.

It is with pride that I serve such a distinguished city in my Congressional District and give my sincere congratulations upon this Golden Anniversary.

THE REOPENING OF THE SAN
MATEO LIBRARY—A 21ST CEN-
TURY MARVEL

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, every now and then there are events in the life of a city that

are so monumental they alter the very core of the city and its people. Today, the city of San Mateo, California, which is in my Congressional District, is proudly reopening its public library and I am certain that this new library, a true modern marvel, will change San Mateo for the better.

Today's event is the culmination of seven years of hard work, including close to 50 community meetings, years of fund raising, and two years of construction. However, I can say with complete confidence that it was all worth it.

Mr. Speaker, this new library is the monument to learning that the citizens of San Mateo desire and deserve. This 90,000 square foot modern marvel is three times larger than the old library, contains 75,000 additional books, 10 times the number of computers, and a wireless internet connection throughout the building. Despite its towering size, the building was designed in an environmentally friendly manner. In fact 98% of the original building was recycled during the demolition process. The new library utilizes natural light and the latest technologies; including automated window shades that rise and close based on room temperature to create a "green building" that is expected to save the city 40% in energy costs.

Mr. Speaker, while the library of the past was mainly used to borrow reading material, today's 21st century library is intended to be a focal hub of the community and the new San Mateo library has been expertly designed in that fashion. The library will boast a teen lounge, a multi-media collection, a story time amphitheater in the children's section with stories told in English, Spanish and Chinese languages, as well as a café operated by a local vendor. In addition because the Bay Area is the pinnacle of our nation's biotech industry the library will include a Biotechnology Learning Center, which will be staffed by its own biotech librarian and will include seminar rooms and specialized reference materials. Of course the library will also continue to provide more traditional offerings, such as adult literacy programs, research training for elementary school age students, and Internet classes for the general public.

The roots of the San Mateo library were planted in 1883 when members of the Ladies Guild of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church decided to create "a reading room or place of resort where people could pass their leisure time socializing and improving their minds by reading good books and periodicals". Today, more than one hundred years later the citizens of San Mateo have once again shown incredible foresight to create a citadel of culture and a place where its residents can ensconce themselves in an educational environment.